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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/584,329  
Reply to OA dated June 30, 2008

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Cancel)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A [[The]] work tool according to Claim 1, comprising:  
an active section formed on two pressure-nipping members, the pressure-nipping members  
being overlapped one on top of another and joined pivotably at respective mid-sections thereof so  
as to be crossed with respect to each other, the active sections formed on distal end sides of a pivotal  
joint spot of the respective mid-sections for nipping or processing; and  
a gripping section formed by the two pressure-nipping members on proximal end sides of the  
pivotal joint spot to be opened and closed for opening and closing the active sections.  
characterized in that magnets are provided respectively on the two pressure-nipping members  
at positions facing to each other in the vicinity of the pivotal joint spot on a side of the gripping  
section so as to be repulsive when being mounted with the same pole faced to each other, and  
characterized in that the magnetic pole of one of the respective magnets provided on the two  
pressure-nipping members is changed so that the respective magnets face with the opposite poles  
faced to each other, whereby the work tool is locked in the storage state in which the respective  
magnets attract each other and come into abutment with each other and the active section is closed.

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Claim 3 (Original): The work tool according to Claim 2, characterized in that one of the respective magnets provided on the two pressure-nipping members is rotated and hence the magnetic pole thereof is changed, so that the respective magnets face with the opposite poles faced to each other.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A [[The]] work tool according to Claim 1, comprising:  
an active section formed on two pressure-nipping members, the pressure-nipping members being overlapped one on top of another and joined pivotably at respective mid-sections thereof so as to be crossed with respect to each other, the active sections formed on distal end sides of a pivotal joint spot of the respective mid-sections for nipping or processing; and  
a gripping section formed by the two pressure-nipping members on proximal end sides of the pivotal joint spot to be opened and closed for opening and closing the active sections,  
characterized in that magnets are provided respectively on the two pressure-nipping members at positions facing to each other in the vicinity of the pivotal joint spot on a side of the gripping section so as to be repulsive when being mounted with the same pole faced to each other,  
characterized in that a magnet is provided on one of the two pressure-nipping members so as to be capable of sliding and facing the other pressure-nipping member with the N-pole or the S-pole directed thereto, and magnets facing the one pressure-nipping member with the N-pole and the S-pole directed thereto respectively are provided on the other pressure-nipping member side by side,  
in that the operating state in which the nipping or processing by the active section is enabled

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is achieved by adjusting the sliding position of the magnet provided on the one pressure-nipping member so as to face the homopolar magnet provided on the other pressure-nipping member to cause the magnet provided on the one pressure-nipping member and the magnet provided on the other pressure-nipping member to be repulsive against each other, and

in that the work tool is locked in the storage state in which the magnet provided on the one pressure-nipping member and the magnet provided on the other pressure-nipping member attract each other to close the active section by adjusting the sliding position of the magnet provided on the one pressure-nipping member so as to face the heteropolar magnet provided on the other pressure-nipping member.

Claim 5 (Cancel)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The work tool according to Claim 2, characterized in that the respective magnets provided on the two pressure-nipping members are detachably attachable with respect to the two pressure-nipping members.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The work tool according to Claim 3, characterized in that the respective magnets provided on the two pressure-nipping members are detachably attachable with respect to the two pressure-nipping members.

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Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The work tool according to Claim 4, characterized in that the respective magnets provided on the two pressure-nipping members are detachably attachable with respect to the two pressure-nipping members.

Claim 9 (New): A work tool comprising:

an active section formed on two pressure-nipping members, the pressure-nipping members being overlapped one on top of another and joined pivotably at respective mid-sections thereof so as to be crossed with respect to each other, the active sections formed on distal end sides of a pivotal joint spot of the respective mid-sections for nipping or processing,

a gripping section formed by the two pressure-nipping members on proximal end sides of the pivotal joint spot to be opened and closed for opening and closing the active sections,

wherein magnets are provided respectively on the two pressure-nipping members at positions facing to each other in the vicinity of the pivotal joint spot on a side of the gripping section so as to be repulsive when being mounted with the same pole faced to each other, and

one of the orientation of the magnetic pole of the magnet can be selected by rotating around a shaft.

Claim 10 (New): The work tool according to Claim 9, wherein the respective magnets provided on the two pressure-nipping members are detachably attachable with respect to the two pressure-nipping members.

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Claim 11 (New): The work tool according to Claim 9, wherein the magnet is maintained in its orientation by a clicking leaf spring.